

**Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on
Student Life**
Held on November 4, 2005
SGW Campus H 769 10:00am

PRESENT: Mr. K. Pruden, Chair, Ms M. Burns, Secretary, Ms H. Ayoub, Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. J. Brisebois, Mr. R. Côté, Mr. W. Curran, Ms M. Drew, Ms A. Ghadban, Dr. S. M. Graub, Ms I. Lacelle, Mr. R. Lobo, Ms C. Marshall, Ms I. Mort, Mr. O. Moran, Ms B. Mugyenyi, Ms C. Reimer, Mr. S. Rosenschein, Mr. P. Schieck, Ms C. Shaffer, Dr. F. Shaver, Ms K. Sheahan

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms K. Hedrich, Ms L. Lipscombe, Dr. M. Mulrennan, Ms P. Posius

ABSENT: Mr. D. Gardhouse, Ms L. Stanbra, Ms L. Toscano

DELEGATES: Ms D. Gleason for Ms. Hedrich, Mr. S. Zulkarnian for Ms. Lipscombe, Ms J. Beaudoin for Dr. Mulrennan, Ms J. deCubellis for Ms Posius

GUESTS: Ms K. Robillard

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Two items were added to the agenda under New Business: Space Issue in Library and Capital Campaign Submission.

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mr. Rosenschein and seconded by Ms Ayoub.

The motion was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

There were no remarks from the Chair.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF Sept. 30, 2005

Mr. Lobo asked that the minutes be amended by replacing the word “most” with the word “some” under Item 6.1, paragraph 3.

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Dr. Graub and seconded by Ms Reimer.

The motion was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Student Health Initiative/Drug & Alcohol Task Force

Mr. Pruden informed Council that he has been attempting to set up meetings for the new Campus Wellness Committee, as well as the drug and alcohol task force. The Campus Wellness Committee is planning to meet in the next two weeks. The drug and alcohol task force is proving harder to schedule. He will keep Council informed on his progress.

4.2 Special Projects Fund

Mr. Pruden informed Council that as of the October 31 deadline, we had received 38 applications for Special Project funding, and 4 applications for Student Initiated Projects. The Special Project Committee will meet next week to review the applications. The Special Project Committee is comprised of Mr. Pruden as Chair, Ms Mugenyi, Ms Reimer, Mr. Rosenshein and Mr. Schiefke.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Student Services Year-End Statement 2004-2005

Mr. Côté presented Council with a brief summary of the Year-end Statement for 2004-2005. He explained that 2004-2005 was the second year of a three-year cycle. He pointed out that revenues come from three areas: government grants, Student Services fees and internal grants, with Student Services fees making up 75% of the total revenues. The budget is set at CCSL and approved by the Board of Governors. He reminded Council that the shortfall was due to higher projections of FTE's when the budget was prepared in 2003-2004. Adjustments were made in order to offset the shortfall and finish the year with a balanced budget. Mr. Moran asked if Continuing Education students were factored into the FTE's. Mr. Côté replied that at this time they are not, but that the new President has suggested that Continuing Education courses may become credit courses in the future.

Ms Sheahan presented Council with a brief summary of the Year-end Statement for Recreation and Athletics for 2004-2005. She explained that although they earned revenues in excess of their expenses, at the end of the year there were retroactive charges from costs in collective agreements, which contributed to a deficit. Their intention is to have a balanced budget in 2005-2006. Ms Shaffer asked whether the deficit would affect services offered by Recreation and Athletics. Ms Sheahan assured her that it would not; they would make up revenues through other sources such as sponsors, increase revenues from group rentals and defer some expenses to the following year.

5.2 Non-Smoking Policy

Council had several questions for Mr. Brisebois regarding the new non-smoking areas recently set up outside a few of the SGW buildings. Mr. Pruden asked Mr. Brisebois whether the lines were in fact nine metres from the doors. Mr. Brisebois replied that the lines extend to the limit of university property, and they cannot go farther than that. Council wondered how Security intends to enforce the non-smoking policy. Mr. Brisebois replied that according to the law, the university can be charged from \$6000 to \$20,000 if the ban is not respected. There is a mechanism in place for Security to issue tickets to people who smoke within the parameters. However, Security is reluctant to issue tickets, and feels that prevention and education is needed. He asked for the cooperation of faculty and staff in this regard. He remarked that people are still smoking in offices and in washrooms, and stated that Security does not have the authority to discipline staff.

Mr. Pruden remarked that he has dealt with smoking violations in Residence, and at this time a stern lecture is the only recourse available.

Ms Mort mentioned that she had seen Security guards smoking within the parameters, and Mr. Brisebois assured her that he would encourage Security to set a good example. He reminded Council that the ban is not officially in effect until January 2006. Ms Boujaklian assured Council that ashtrays would be removed from within the parameters before the policy goes into effect.

5.3 Bicycle Theft

Mr. Schiefke expressed concern that bicycle theft has become a big problem on campus. Mr. Brisebois agreed, and remarked that Security is trying to monitor the situation, but they do not have enough staff and cameras to patrol adequately. He informed Council that last week there was a presentation given by Security and the YMCA to educate people about bicycle theft prevention, at which students were able to have their bicycles engraved. Mr. Brisebois emphasized the importance of good locks in the prevention of bicycle theft. He also stated that they were examining the kinds of bicycle racks that are being used at other universities. Mr. Schiefke asked how many indoor bicycle racks are available in the LB Building; Ms deCubellis offered to find out and inform Council. She noted that the university has a severe shortage of car parking spots, and that it would be difficult to allocate any more space for indoor bicycle racks. Mr. Owen suggested that the Bookstore and the CSU could sell good locks at reasonable prices.

Ms Shaffer remarked that she had not been aware of the bicycle workshop, and wondered if there was a better way to get the information to students. Mr. Côté replied that myConcordia Portal is an extremely effective method of giving information to students. Ms Shaffer stated that graduate students do not use the portal as much as undergraduate students. Ms Drew noted that "direct news" is another effective way of reaching the university population. Mr. Brisebois stated that Security is planning to work together with the student newspapers and the CSU in an effort to deal with the problem.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

Mr. Rosenshein raised the issue of safety on the escalators in the Hall Building. He noted that from time to time the escalators are shut off when there is too much weight on them. Sometimes they are shut off while people are traveling on them, and people are thrown off-balance. He wondered if something could be done to avoid people getting hurt. Ms Lacelle commented that people with mobility difficulties are sometimes unable to use the elevators because of overcrowding. Then they have no choice but to use the escalators. Mr. Schiefke suggested that elevator use be restricted to people with mobility difficulties. Ms Reimer suggested that more advertising is needed to inform people of the staircases in the Hall Building. Dr. Shaver concurred that the stairs are not easy to find, and there is a lack of signage. She also noted that there are now more faculty, staff and students on the 11th and 12th floors of the Hall Building, compounding the problem.

Ms Boujaklian replied that Facilities Management is aware of these problems and is looking at solutions. As each floor gets renovated, these issues are being addressed. They plan to implement new signage when all the renovations are completed. She reminded Council that any problems should be reported to the 2400 line. Mr. Pruden offered to pursue the idea of restricting elevator use with Vice-President Services and Auxiliary Services. Dr. Shaver mentioned she had heard a rumour that elevator use may be restricted to faculty and staff, and that she was not comfortable with this idea.

Mr. Pruden noted that in his research he has learned that it is difficult to get parts for these older escalators, and damage can be done by flyers and garbage that get into the mechanism. He commented that the escalators were originally designed to accommodate 5000 people per day. Today the escalators are used by anywhere from 12,000 to 15,000 people per day.

Dr. Graub remarked that the position of the Continuing Education student on CCSL is still vacant, and asked whether it could be filled in a timely fashion, as she would welcome that perspective on Council. Mr. Rosenshein replied that CSU is working on it, but has had difficulty connecting with the Continuing Education population. Mr. Côté offered to bring it up with the Director of Continuing Education at their upcoming meeting, and invite them to contact CSU.

7. New Business

Mr. Curran presented a brief progress report on the proposal for expansion of the Webster Library. He reminded Council that he had submitted a report in December 2004, which is available on the website. Last year Council approved a motion supporting this proposal; since then there has been little progress. Mr. Curran hoped that Council would continue to support their efforts to speed up the expansion plans. They are willing to start with a portion of the 5th floor, if that is all that becomes available in the near future. Mr. Curran emphasized that there is a very small window of opportunity for the Library to move or undergo renovations; once the school year begins they cannot close the library. Mr. Curran promised to keep Council informed of any progress. Mr. Pruden offered to ask the Vice-President if he has any more information on this issue.

8. Next Meeting: December 2, 2005 SGW Campus H 769 10am

9. Termination of Meeting

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Rosenshein and seconded by Ms Marshall.

The motion was carried unanimously